

**REMARKS**

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives during the personal interview on November 17, 2006, and for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated September 28, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Response, claims 19 and 31 have been amended, and new claims 52 and 53 have been added. Claims 19-53 are pending in the application. No new matter has been added. All amendments and remarks are in accordance with discussions with the Examiner during the personal interview on November 17, 2006. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed July 19, 2006 fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 because the U.S. Patent has been placed in the foreign patent list. Applicant files herewith a corrective IDS in which the cited U.S. reference is properly identified in the U.S. Patent Documents section. No additional matter has been added. Applicant kindly requests consideration of the IDS.

In the Office Action, claims 19-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,909,483, issued to Weare et al. (hereafter "Weare") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,276,731, issued to Arbel et al. (hereafter "Arbel"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because neither Weare nor Arbel, analyzed alone or in any combination, teaches or suggests the combined features recited in the claims of the present application. For example, Weare and Arbel fail to teach a method of controlling transmission of message data from a sender having an origination address to a recipient having a first destination address that includes, among other features, "the recipient providing at least one specific instruction... for controlling an initial transmission of the message data to an address associated with the recipient" and "processing the message data in accordance with the at least one specific instruction provided by the recipient for controlling the initial transmission of message data directed to the recipient address", as recited in independent claim 19 of the present application.

Weare and Arbel further fail to teach a method of controlling transmission of electronic message data from a sender having an origination address to a recipient having a first destination address that includes, among other features, “receiving at least one specific instruction... for controlling an initial transmission of the electronic message data to an address associated with the recipient; and processing the electronic message data... for controlling the initial transmission of the electronic message data directed to the recipient”, as recited in independent claim 31 of the present application.

Because Weare and Arbel fail to teach at least the above features of independent claims 19 and 31, claim 19 and its dependent claim 20-30, and claim 31 and its dependent claims 32-49 are allowable over any combination of Weare and Arbel. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

New claims 52 and 53 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection for the originally disclosed invention. No new matter has been added. Claim 52 depends from claim 19, and claim 53 depends from claim 31. By virtue of their dependence from claims 19 and 31, claims 52 and 53 also contain the distinguishable features discussed above with respect to independent claims 19 and 31.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

Application No.: 10/656,162  
Amendment dated December 28, 2006  
Reply to Office Action dated September 28, 2006

Docket No.: 27853.004.22

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: December 28, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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